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Releases

BCFED will keep fighting for working people with new government

BC's provincial election results reflect the challenges British Columbians are facing — but they aren't a license to roll back the progress BC's labour movement has made, BCFED President Sussanne Skidmore said tonight.

"This wasn't the outcome we were hoping for, but it underlines just how difficult life is for working people in BC. And tonight many of them expressed their frustration at the ballot box," she said.

"Something should be very clear. The Conservatives can't claim a mandate to impose a slash-and-burn agenda on BC after a campaign where they kept their leader, their candidates and their whole platform from scrutiny," she added.

"BC's labour movement fought hard for workers over the last nine years, and the last thing any of us needs is to reverse course. The labour movement in BC is going to keep fighting to make progress for working people, no matter who's in government.

"Because victories like Canada's highest provincial minimum wage also led to the highest wage growth in the country. That's the kind of affordability measure people need."

Skidmore said it was a disappointing night for New Democrats. "We've lost a lot of good MLAs tonight, and we owe them our deepest thanks. And I want to extend our gratitude to Premier David

Eby for his many years of service working for a fairer, more just province.”

She added, “We hope Mr. Doerkson is the moderate he spent the campaign claiming to be. For starters, he should deal with the extremists in his own party and caucus who’ve been trying to re-fight basic issues of justice and equality that British Columbia settled years ago.

“He needs to put to rest those divisive battles, so we can all focus instead on the urgent issues facing working people in BC in their day-to-day lives.”